

STUDENT NONVIOLENT COORDINATING COMMITTEE
8 $\frac{1}{2}$ RAYMOND STREET, N.W.
ATLANTA, GEORGIA 30314

Minutes of the Meeting of the SNCC Executive Committee, March 29, 1964

The Executive Committee of SNCC met in Atlanta at the close of the annual spring conference. The meeting was attended by the following members of the Executive Committee, whole or part time: John Lewis, James Forman, Ella Baker, Marion Barry, Butch Cohn, Courtland Cox, Ben Grinage, Prathia Hall, Bill Hansen, Don Harris, Bernard Lafayette, Eddie McKay, Lester McKinney, Bob Moses, William Porter, Gwen Robinson, Marion E. Wright, and Dr. Howard Zinn. The pattern followed was that of open discussion of the agenda: I. Mississippi Project; II. Financial Standing; III. Dialogue of consensus on Malcolm X's stand. IV. College recruiting program in the next two (2) months. V. Discussion of proposals from Northern Coordinating Group (10 proposals from Friends of SNCC.)

Summer Project

1. SNCC's role in the Mississippi Summer Project.

Discussion centered around the problem of the status of summer workers: are they SNCC people or not. Consensus was reached that this should be left up to the individual workers, although a special attempt should be made at the training centers to commit people to SNCC.

2. Lawyer problem.

Lawyers from the Lawyers' Guild, the INC fund and the President's Committee have been invited to give legal aid during the summer. The President's Committee has committed itself to 30 lawyers, the INC Fund to 4 or 5 and the Lawyers' Guild an unspecified number for periods of 2 weeks (vacation time.) Judge Crockett will conduct seminars for lawyers for 3 months. However, Greenberg has indicated that he will not work with the Lawyers' Guild attorneys.

It is doubtful, however, that these attorneys would be able to practice in Mississippi unless introduced to the Court by one of the 3 practicing

Negro lawyers, Greenberg has been very effective in getting lawyers he did not want removed, or not introduced. *It was Moses' position that COFO will work with anyone, and asked for the direction of the Executive Committee.

A consensus was reached that the Executive Committee suggest to COFO that we cannot refuse legal aid, and that Moses attempt to deal with the conflict. Moses commented that he would take this position back to COFO and that if there were further difficulty we could deal with it at a later date.

* The President's Committee lawyers will handle criminal cases. Greenberg will not let his lawyers or other lawyers handle criminal cases. The Lawyers' Guild will use the law aggressively. Moses stated that all cases will be followed up through the higher courts.

3. Recruitment.

70 ministers from the National Council of Churches and the Presbyterian group are coming to Mississippi for the summer. Teachers from the United Federation of Teachers in New York have promised to come down. Staughton Lynd has volunteered to work with the Freedom Schools. Folk singers are being recruited. Nurses are needed to set up Health centers. Recruiting from students is going on at centers like Yale, Harvard, Stanford, and through college and area Friends of SNCC groups. No matter than 1000 people will be accepted.

4. Program.

The program is divided into three parts: 1) Freedom Schools. There will be 20 or 30 bases, 15 teachers per school, total 300 to 450.

2) Community centers. 30 centers with 10 workers each. Total - 300.

3) Voter registration. 4 people per county for voter registration.

There are 82 counties, making a total of 328 workers.

which houses 200 persons will also be the all-over center

for the Freedom Schools. It will also be a training center for drifters - in. A permanent staff will be kept there at all times to train the drifters-in. Staughton Lynd and _____ will be in charge of the Freedom Schools.

There is of yet no set up for voter registration.

5. Schedule.

There will be an orientation period of 4 days beginning June 4th at Borda College, Kentucky. After training sessions, trainees would be assigned to a city in Mississippi. After getting there, the trainees will engage in another week orientation in their particular area.

There will be 14 tracts with groups of 37-40, each with a work-shop leader who is skilled in dialogue. The groups will be divided geographically. The first Freedom School begins July 4th through August 1, the second from the 1st of August through the 29th.

It is hoped that there will be an exodus of people to Atlantic City for the Convention on August 24th.

OTHER SUMMER PROJECTS

1. It had been stated that as of this time the only plans for a summer project were in Mississippi. Moses had asked for all possible help from SNCC. The proposal was raised of shifting experienced people from other projects to Mississippi for the summer. At this point it was suggested by John Lewis that before discussion be held on this point the other project heads give reports on their areas.
2. Southwest Georgia, Don Harris. The project is expanding. They hope to have contact with every county in the 23rd Congressional District. Founding of a literacy school in Terrill County is expected. The American Friends Service Committee is to rebuild Carolyn Daniels' house which was blown up. Churches that were blown up in August and September are about a month from completion. Needs: Material - a pro-

jector.

Personnel: not more than 15 people for summer.

3. Selma, Mary Varela. Mrs. Boynton's campaign was supposed to be a top priority SNCC project, but needs have not been met. Projects will collapse without a project director and/or 3 people with experienced leadership.
4. Eastern Arkansas, Bill Hansen. There is no vehicle set up for people to work on, but voter registration work is going on in preparation for fall campaigns. Needed: Money and people, preferable Southern Negro males, who can pay their own way.
5. Raleigh, James Forman. Reggie Robinson, project director, has taken a leave of absence. The project is to be extended for 3 weeks while the YWCA voter registration workers are there, after which time the project will be discontinued, and the staff shifted to other projects.
6. Atlanta, Prathia Hall. As of now there is no program in Atlanta. A consensus was reached that the project directors submitted proposals to a committee composed of the Executive Secretary, the Staff Coordinator, and the Chairman who will submit their recommendations on the proposals to the next meeting of the Executive Committee. The Staff Coordinator will send copies of the project proposals to all members of the Executive committee before the next meeting.
It was also agreed that the Executive Secretary and the Staff Coordinator will meet with the Personnel Committee to find a project director for Selma.

ZINN'S PROPOSAL

A copy of the proposal is attached.

The proposal was approved in its essence. The following procedure outlined: ① That Bob Moses draw up a letter to President Johnson requesting an audience. The letter is to be submitted for approval to the next

meeting of the Executive Committee. 2) The letter is to be signed by a committee of people who agree to the demands. These names were suggested: A. Phillip Randolph, Rhineholdt Neibur, James Baldwin, Dr. Smith, Mr. Pauley, Mr. Blake, Judge Fodstick, Dean Clyde Ferguson, James Naibritt. These people will be invited to a meeting to discuss the idea. Those who agree will constitute an independent committee who would not officially represent SNCC or COFO. 3) Moses' name will be used on the letter as the director of COFO. The committee will be called the Friends of Freedom for Mississippi. Bob Moses will be in charge of getting in touch with these perspective Ad Hoc committee people. 4) The proposals made will be based on the Zinn memo, but it will not be used in the letter written to the Ad Hoc group. 5) The group will hold to the proposals even though the President disagrees. 6) A press conference will follow the talk with the President.

UAW Proposal

The following programs are to be drawn up for the UAW: 1) White student project; 2) Research project; 3) Educational, in-training for staff and training centers for incoming staff. Moses, Lewis and Forman will be responsible for drawing up proposals for UAW and for meeting with UAW people on April 11th.

FUND RAISING

1. Forman gave a brief report on the current financial status. A more complete report will be delivered after the books come back from the auditors.
2. Dinky gave a report on the fund raising meeting of the representatives from the friends of SNCC. A form report will be drawn up with all the proposals for obtaining a steady, somewhat predicable flow of income.
3. Suggestions from fund-raisers meeting: 1) A person is needed to co-

and expand the sources of tax-exempt money. 2) More work must be done on our artist contacts, and a definite person must be assigned to this. 3) More contact is needed with clubs, fraternal groups, social clubs, womens' organizations, etc..

4. Requests: 1) That a monthly assessment of the financial situation be sent to all Friends' groups including foreseeable needs for the near future. 2) What detailed information on all phases of the Mississippi Summer Project immediately. 3) That there be a treasurer, who would be Mrs. Shessie Johnson.

These proposals were all approved by the Executive Committee. It was also passed that the Treasurer be present at all Executive Committee meetings.

The following people were asked to be present at Executive Committee meetings and to bring reports: 1) Chairman; 2) Executive Secretary; 3) Staff Coordinator; 4) Coordinator of Camps Travelers; 5) Southern Student Coordinator; 6) Administrative secretary; 7) Northern Coordinator; 8) One person from each office; 9) Book-Keepers.

The next Executive Meeting is scheduled for April 18-19 in Atlanta. The first item of business is to be finances.